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U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICE PLAYING WITH FIRE

Martin and Mitchell Give Interview

Information
Mitchell
File

A FEW days ago a TASS correspondent visited William H. Martin and Bernon F. Mitchell and put a number of questions to them. Formerly on the staff of the U.S. National Security Agency Martin and Mitchell arrived in the Soviet Union from the United States in the summer, and are now working here.

Referring to official and unofficial comment in the United States on the decision of the two men to give up American citizenship, Bernon Mitchell said that the statements made by the Defence Department and the State Department were aimed at diverting attention from the exposure of the activities of the American intelligence service, at concealing from the electors and even from Congress the most dubious aspects of its work.

Official U.S. spokesmen, said William Martin, were unable to give any concrete answer to the essence of the statements which he and his colleague made at the press conference in Moscow on September 6 this year. The State Department even had to admit that the U.S. administration had constantly been making false statements as to the real object of the spy flights undertaken against many countries in the past eight years.

The worst thing, Martin declared, was that nobody had said that such actions should not be repeated.

Mitchell and Martin also exposed the absurdity of the U.S. Defence Department's allegation that they were "intellectually inadequate". Martin was the only N.S.A. associate out of ten thousand who was given an U.S.A. fellowship to take a master's degree, while of 40 newly accepted mathematicians Mitchell received the highest mark.

Speaking of the attempts to discredit the statements made by Mitchell and Martin that the United States was carrying on intelligence activity against its own allies, Mitchell said, that he could not see some U.S. allies, for instance Italy, Turkey and Uruguay, if they wanted to learn how the American Government treats their secret correspondence.

In answer to a question Martin expressed his conviction that despite the great failures the U.S. intelligence service would continue their subversive activity and interference in the internal affairs of other countries. He saw proof of this in the fact that Allen Dulles had been re-elected as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The U.S. Government, Martin said, had embarked on a new programme of espionage with the aid of spy satellites. He said that by coming to the U.S.S.R. his colleague and he had sought to ex-

press their protest against certain types of intelligence work, in particular spy flights. In their opinion the continuation of such flights could in the final count cause a terrible war.

Mitchell explained that they had tried to inform Congress about the spy flights, at great personal risk taking their information to Representative Wayne L. Hays. However, Hays either could not or would not do anything in this matter. To leave the United States, Martin said, had been the only form of protest that remained to them.

Commenting on the continuing interference of the United States in the internal affairs of other countries, Martin mentioned in particular Cuba, Guatemala, Taiwan and Nicaragua. Working through its intelligence organs the United States had taken steps to weaken or split the National Unity Committee of Turkey so as to prevent the new government from taking any action to abolish U.S. military bases and intelligence radio stations in that country.

Speaking of the security check carried out by Congress in the U.S. intelligence agencies Martin remarked, among other things, that the attempt to divert all the attention to a few deserters was in his opinion a means of intimidating the potentially dissatisfied. Martin said that if those tactics were continued they could turn the United States into a police state.

Replying to a question about the reasons for the defeat of the Republicans in the recent presidential elections, Mitchell and Martin explained this by saying that the majority of Americans wanted to see changes in the U.S. policy. Martin thought that Kennedy's victory was decided by his promise to reassess U.S. foreign and home policies, and to return to the political traditions of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Speaking of their impressions of the Soviet Union the two men stated that they had found Soviet people very purposeful, friendly disposed, and extremely hospitable. They also said that although they were not Communists certain features of life in the U.S.S.R., such as certain practices in economics and state administration seemed to them to be better than in the United States. Martin emphasized that in his opinion Soviet people and the Government were sincerely interested in preventing war. He saw no reason whatsoever why the people of the United States and the U.S.S.R. could not live in friendship.

Martin and Mitchell said that they had decided to devote their energies in the U.S.S.R. to mathematics as applied to peaceful purposes.